

Inc. Mr. Hill purchased the Mobile operation of the Belford Company in 1968 and soon expanded the company into the Florida panhandle. Leroy Hill Coffee Company, Inc. today has 22 locations throughout the Southeast, and its products can be found in restaurants, grocery stores, and convenience stores.

Mr. Hill and his wife, Debbie, also ran a successful cattle business that started with the purchase of his first acreage in Grand Bay in the late 1960s. He was a longtime member of the Alabama Cattlemen's Association and ABBA Shrine. He also made many charitable donations as a way of thanking his community; he donated the playground equipment for Breitling Elementary School in Grand Bay.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering a dedicated community leader and friend to many throughout the state of Alabama. Leroy Hill will be deeply missed by his family—his wife, Debbie; his three sons, Roy Wayne, Todd, and Brian; his daughter, Debra Stewart; his stepdaughter, Brandy Ramsay; his 13 grandchildren; and his two sisters, Doris Gatlin and Dorothy Brooks Hicks—as well as the countless friends he leaves behind.

Our thoughts and prayers are with his family at this difficult time.

HONORING EIGHT DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON HIGH SCHOOLS

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 10, 2009

Mr. REICHERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of five high schools located in the Eighth District of Washington that for the third year in a row were named to Newsweek Magazine's ranking of the top 1,500 public high schools in the country in academics. In 2009, all five high schools earned "top 100" recognition—the most coveted honor in the magazine.

The International School, Interlake High School, Newport High School, Sammamish High School, and Bellevue High School each earned the prestigious "top 100" recognition and two of the schools, Interlake High School and Sammamish High School, moved several places higher on the list than their positions last year.

During my tenure in the House, I've remained an outspoken advocate for investing in public education and the need for welcoming and safe learning environments. The five schools singled out for recognition by Newsweek have clearly developed a wonderful and unique learning environment to help students reach their full academic potential. The selfless, hardworking teachers and administrators who serve in these schools deserve equal recognition for the time and energy they devote to educating our children; they deserve our admiration and gratitude for their efforts.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. BILL POSEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 10, 2009

Mr. POSEY. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the Republican Leadership standards on ear-

marks as well as in accordance with Clause 9 of Rule XXI, I am submitting the following information regarding earmarks for my Congressional District as a part of H.R. 2847, Commerce, Justice, Science Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2010.

Requesting Member: Congressman BILL POSEY

Project Funding Amount \$600,000

Bill Number: H.R. 2847

Account: COPS, Technology

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: City of Palm Bay, Palm Bay, FL

Address of Requesting Entity: City of Palm Bay, 120 Malabar Road, Palm Bay, Florida 32907.

Description of Request: In order for our law enforcement officers to respond to critical incidents quickly and effectively, they need the proper resources. This funding would be used to help the City of Palm Bay outfit a vehicle with technology to provide on-site command, control, and coordination during critical incidents. Accordingly, the command center will be used as a headquarters for on-scene investigations and provide various agencies the necessary resources required to respond and complete missions.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHRISTOPHER S. MURPHY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 10, 2009

Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, on June 24, 2009, I missed rollcall 450, a vote on final passage of the Fiscal Year 2010 Homeland Security Appropriations bill. I was detained off the House Floor with legislative business.

If I had been present for the vote, I would have voted "aye."

HONORING THE MEMORY OF BERT BANK

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 10, 2009

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, the state of Alabama recently lost a dear friend, and I rise today to honor him and pay tribute to his memory. Bert Bank, a World War II hero, an Alabama state legislator and radio pioneer, was an Alabama legend.

Mr. Bank attended the University of Alabama Law School and graduated in 1940. He served his country in the Air Force during World War II rising to the rank of major. He survived the Bataan Death March as a prisoner of war for 33 brutal months. When he returned to the United States, he spent two years in the Valley Forge General Hospital recovering from malnutrition. He later wrote the book *Back From the Living Dead*, which recounted his experiences as a prisoner of war.

When he returned to Tuscaloosa, he started the radio stations WTBC-AM and WUOA-FM and, in 1953, he started the University of Alabama Football Network.

In 1966, Mr. Bank was elected to the House of Representatives and served two terms. In

1974, he was elected to the Alabama Senate and served one term before running for lieutenant governor. During his twelve years in the Alabama House and Senate, he introduced legislation making it a felony to burn the American flag—Alabama was the first state to pass such legislation. He also authored legislation to make it a felony to burn a draft card, another first for the state of Alabama.

Mr. Bank was a champion for veterans. He introduced legislation that made it possible for veterans of the Gulf War to participate in the state sponsored college education program. He also authored legislation that rewarded the 21 Alabama Vietnam Prisoners of War with a \$500 bonus.

Mr. Bank's years of service to Tuscaloosa, the broadcast industry, and the state of Alabama were recognized with numerous awards throughout his life. He received the Thad Holt Distinguished Broadcasters Award in 1969 and the Alabama Broadcasters Association Lifetime Achievement Award. In 2008, he was inducted into the Alabama Broadcasters Association Hall of Fame. He was also awarded the Silver Medal as Man of the Year by the Tuscaloosa Advertising Club and was named a Distinguished Service and Outstanding Alumnus by the University of Alabama College of Communication and Information Sciences. Mr. Bank was also presented the Bronze Star by the U.S. Air Force for his service during World War II.

Mr. Bank was a member of the disabled American Veterans, the American Legion, and the Veterans of Foreign Wars. He also established The Bert Bank Endowed Patriotism Scholarship Fund at the University of Alabama.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering a dedicated community leader and friend to many throughout the state of Alabama. Mr. Bert Bank will be deeply missed by his family—his wife, Gertrude, and his two sons, Jimmy and Ralph—as well as his many friends. Our thoughts and prayers are with them all at this difficult time.

CONGRATULATIONS TO LADY MUSTANGS

HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 10, 2009

Mr. UPTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Lady Mustangs of Portage Central High School on being named the 2009 Division 1 State Soccer Champions. This team of young ladies, lead by 24-year Mustang Coach Pat Norman, has put in endless hours of hard work and dedication making them the first program west of Ann Arbor and Saginaw to win a Division 1 Women's Soccer State Title since the debut of women's soccer in 1971.

Winning a state championship is a memory that will last a lifetime. It is a remarkable achievement that few teams ever experience, and it is a legacy that will live with the 2009 Lady Mustangs forever. This young team, lead by captains Shannon Bennett, Lauren Brown, and Courtney Havens-Mitchell, played a close game against the Utica Eisenhower Eagles and came out victorious beating the Eagles 3-2 in overtime.